

ROUSSE

GUIDE BOOK





ROUSSE



The RIGA Hotel



R O U S S E

Friends, you arrive in Rousse from various parts of our land or from far-away countries, by car, bus, or you might have preferred the riverine way along the great river, in order to enjoy the serene and beautiful Danube River banks. Others have preferred to arrive in our country by train to be able to appreciate to a fuller extent the beauties of Bulgaria. Still others have established their first contacts with our country from a bird's eye view — arriving by plane. No matter how you have arrived, you are now in our hospitable town. We greet you with hearty Bulgarian "Dobre Doshli" (Welcome!) in Rousse. We greet you with an open heart and hospitably reveal our Slav soul.

In order to feel comfortable and to have a pleasant sojourn in our town you are welcome to the hotels "Riga" along the banks of the Blue Danube, or the "Danube" Hotel — in the center of the town. You could also spend the night at the camping site "Ribarska Koliba" (Fishermen's Hut), situated 6 km from the center of the town.

Comfortably accommodated and rested, you'd be willing to see the remarkable sites of our town and its vicinity, to learn many interesting things. To save your time we offer you several itineraries, which will help you in your recognizing of our town.

We will begin first of all with a short

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Rousse is situated in the northeastern confines of Bulgaria. It is the largest Bulgarian town along the River Danube. Viewed from the river it has an amphitheatrical situation. The town's average altitude above sea-level is 46 m. It is situated approximately at the same latitude as Vladivostok, Sochi, Sarajevo, Florence, Monte Carlo, Boston, Detroit.

In the western part of the town stretches out the wide expanse of the Roussenski Lom valley—a Danube River tributary. This river has cut up the terrain and reveals the thick layers of loess which has buried (covered over) the ancient chalk (Barem) calcareous lands. All along the Danube River and along the canyon-like valley of the Roussenski Lom River there are many quarries and white-stone pits, out of which are being extracted great quantities of the so-called Rousse stone, widely utilized for house-revetment.

Rousse is situated in a region with a pre-continental climate. The average annual temperature is somewhere around 11°C. The coldest month of the year is January and the warmest—July. The summer months have a higher temperature than the normal average for Bulgaria. At times, during the very cold winter months River Danube freezes for a period of 20–30 days. In exceptional and very rare cases the river has known much longer periods of ice-binding, for example in 1879 when it was frozen for 90 days.

As a riverine port—the only navigable way from Western Europe in the direction of the Black Sea—Rousse is linked to seven European countries: The German Federal Republic, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Romania and the Soviet Union.

Already in the remote past an important road crossed the town—from the Baltic and Scandinavian lands and Russia towards the Black Sea. The Danube River water route, the nearness of the Romanian capital Bucharest (65 km) and the very convenient railway, automobile and air routes, have transformed the town into a first-rate transport junction. The population of the town is just over 160,000 persons.

Rousse has fraternization ties with the French town of Saint Ouen, with the Soviet town Riga, the German town Potsdam and the Czechoslovak town Bratislava. As a member of the Organization of Fraternal Towns, Rousse and its citizens work for peace and rapprochement among the nations of the different lands on our planet. Rousse also has close ties with many other towns throughout the world.

The town and its environment attract visitors during all yearly seasons. The town is particularly agreeable during the summer months and its warm and long lasting autumn. Both of these seasons offer a lavish abundance of fruit and vegetables.

A RICH HISTORICAL PAST

Our town has a rich ancient history. It can be noted through several historical names: Selishtnata Mogila, Sexaginta Prista, Rouschouk, Rousse — a rich millenary history, ancient and new.

The town leads its foundation somewhere during the pre-historic epoch of the Eneolith (stone-copper epoch), about 5000 B. C., when on the very bank of the River Danube an ancient settlement was founded — named Selishtna Mogila. During the milleniums which followed, after fires and other natural calamities, the settlement was always re-built in the same place to form finally a truncated hillock. The archaeological excavations show, that life continued to exist there all through the Stone-Copper and the Iron Epoch. The unearthed in the lower layers stone and copper axes, flint knives, spuds made from deer horns, bone harpoons, fish-hooks and net weights, are an indication of the basic crafts and occupations of the town's ancient population — agriculture, animal husbandry, hunting and fishing. From these finds our archaeologists draw the conclusion, that parallelly with the treatment and processing of stone, copper and animal bones, the ancient inhabitants of the settlement were also skilled masters of the potter's wheel and of weaving.

The last layer of the Rousse settlement hillock dates as late as in the eve of the New Era. The settlement's inhabitants belonged to the ancient Thracian tribes, who also inhabited the lands to the north of the Balkan Range. Already during this period they utilized bronze and iron, out of which they manufactured labour implements, arms and ornaments.

During this same historic period, when the industrious Thracian tribes were developing their economic life and culture, to the west in the Apennine Peninsula, had been established a strong slave-holding state — the mighty Roman Empire. At the beginning of the 1st century B. C., after having put under their control many of its rivals and enemies, the Romans set out on tenacious conquests in the direction of the Balkan Peninsula. For more than a century the Thracians resisted the pressure of the world's strongest then power, defended and protected with abnegation their freedom, but at the end had to give in and towards the middle of the 1st century A. D., they were subjugated by the Romans, too. Their lands became Roman provinces.

The Roman conquerors had an efficacious strategy in their colonization policy and the maintaining of their supremacy. They built roads, bridges, fortresses and castles aiming to immortalize their Empire.

A Roman town sprang up in the old part of the present-day town of Rousse.

A ceramic jar — found at the settlement mound —
Rousse





Thracian treasure — a silver rhyton (4th century B. C.)

A silver bowl belonging to the treasure found near the village of Borovo



SEXAGINTA PRISTA

The literal translation of the town's name is "Port for 60 vessels." According to historical sources the fortress Sexaginta Prista was founded during the reign of Emperor Vespasian around 69--70 A. D.

Sexaginta Prista was an important centre in the Roman defensive line, erected by them as a protection against the "Barbarians", also known under the name of "Danubian Limes". It comprised the fortresses Yantrus, Sukidava, Trimamidi, Tetra, Dorostoum, etc.

The incessant and long-lasting wars did not allow the Romans to maintain in their large territorial empire a sufficient number of soldiers (legions), in order to stifle down quickly the continuous revolts of the subjugated peoples. That is why they built roads and fortresses. Having appraised the strategic importance of Sexaginta Prista, the conquerors had fortified it strongly and in the midst of the local population of Thracians and Romanized Greeks settled new colonists from Asia Minor. The present-day Bulgarian lands from Northern Bulgaria and the territories around the Balkan Range the Romans had named Moesia. The many towns which had been founded during that time along the Danube River and further inland were instrumental in the rapid implantation of the slave system and of Roman culture.

In the course of several centuries Sexaginta Prista played an important political and military-strategic role. Along the riverine route the town was a continuous recipient, from East and West, of food supplies, arms, slaves and soldiers for the support and upkeep of the continuous wars of the Roman Empire.

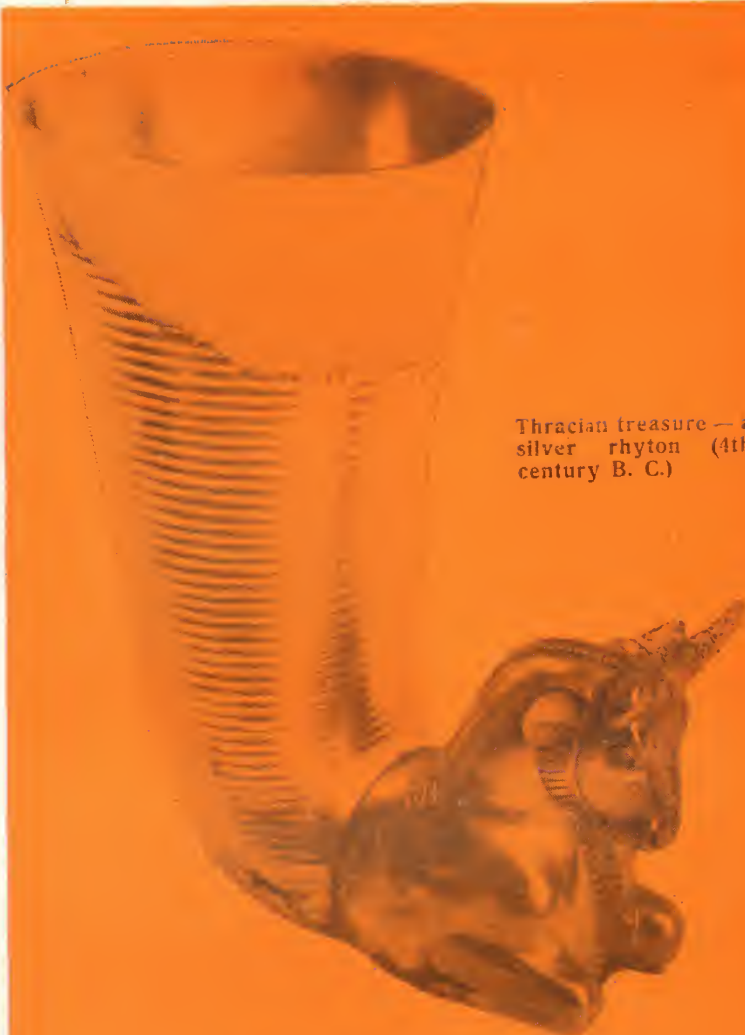
The name of Sexaginta Prista is to be found carved over a stone slate from the reign of Emperor Trajan, when the town was flourishing, between 100-101 A. D. The well-erected network of roads, leading to the fortified town and the River Danube helped the further development of commercial relations with the other parts of the Great Empire. This fact is witnessed by the numerous and varied Roman coins unearthed in or around the town. The construction of public monuments, houses and roads was particularly great in the town during the reign of Emperor Justinian during the 6th century A. D., who had ordered the strengthening and modernization of all the Roman fortresses built there before his coming to the throne. All these undertakings, however, proved futile in the defence of the disintegrating Roman Empire (Eastern Roman Empire), which was also called Byzantium, due to the continuous raids and shattering assaults of the Goths, Huns, Slavs and Avars intruding from the North.

Sexaginta Prista was entirely wiped out from the face of the earth during the 7th century A. D., due to these incursions. The town's complete ruin shows that the Roman Empire during the 6th-7th century A. D., could not cope with the tribes and peoples invading its territories. The Old-Bulgarian and the Slav tribes made their permanent homes there, united in a military alliance, and later on founded the Slav-Bulgarian State — the first Slav state in Europe. Gradually all former Roman regions in Moesia and Thrace became Bulgarian lands, which has been existing there under the name of Bulgaria, for the past 1300 years.




Marble statue — found near the village of Oryahovo
(3rd century)

The Roman fortress Sexaginta Prista was completely destroyed. In 681 A. D., Khan Asparouch founded the Bulgarian State. The First Bulgarian State continued to exist for three centuries and its history is a sequence of continuous sanguinary wars and struggles in defence and consolidation of the new state. Inheriting and enriching the achievements of their predecessors, the Bulgarians attained a very high level of development of all productive forces and of culture. Over the remains of Sexaginta Prista they erected a small fortress (10th-12th century), which did not play a particularly important role during the Bulgarian mediaeval period. But some 30 kilometres from the present-day town of Rousse had sprung up the large mediaeval town of



Thracian treasure — a
silver rhyton (4th
century B. C.)



Gold coins from the
reign of Philip II of
Macedonia (359-336
B. C.)

CHERVEN — SUCCESSOR OF SEXAGINTA PRISTA

Near to that very place there exists nowadays a village by the same name. Having sprung up during the rule of the Thracians, its history is the witness of the sovereignty of the Romans, the Byzantines and the final lasting establishment of a Bulgarian State.

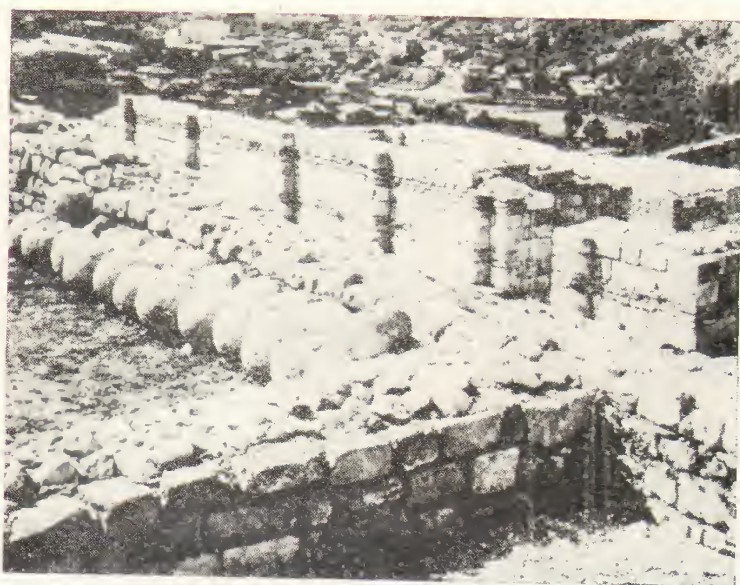
There exist different opinions concerning the foundation of the town of Cherven, but the one which is to be trusted most is, that it was founded by the Bulgarians after they had become masters of the region towards the end of the 9th century.

The town of Cherven attained real flourishing under the Bulgarians. Already during the reign of Knjaz (Prince) Mihail, in reality Tsar Boris the First, Cherven became an important regional centre of the new state during the 10th century. The Bulgarians assessed immediately its favourable geographical situation and relief. Built over a high hillock, with almost vertical hillsides, encircled on three sides by the high and very steep rocky banks of the Cherni Lom River, the town was practically inapproachable by the enemies of the state.

During the First Bulgarian State the town of Cherven had become a unique, for the period, Bulgarian centre with an important strategic, economic, commercial and cultural significance. The town consisted of two parts, as practically all mediaeval towns and settlements — a citadel or a stronghold and the town proper, encircled by high stone fortress walls, with



embrasures and towers. Time has spared a small part of these fortifications. After numerous excavations the walls of the castle of the sovereign of Cherven were unearthed, alongside with the remains of six churches, all of which were erected according to the type of the Turnovo architectural school. This latter is one of the confirmations, that already during the reign of Tsar Boris the First, the town of Cherven had become an Episcopal town, and later on the seat and residence of the Bulgarian Archbishop. The architectural monuments are an excellent affirmation of the building talent of the Bulgarians during that remote epoch. These buildings were solidly erected structures of hewed stones, baked bricks and mortar, ornamented with pilasters, vaults and arcades. The thick heavy walls of the fortress resisted both unexpected and rapid assaults, as well as long-lasting enemy sieges.



Part of the castle and
a church — the village
of Cherven (14th cen-
tury)



Remains of the town
of Cherven .

The results of the archaeological excavations during recent years confirm, that the town of Cherven had played a considerable role in economic respect during the Bulgarian mediaeval period in the northeastern confines of the land. Regarding the development of the different crafts and commerce we are supported by the numerous artisan's instruments which were found there, alongside with agricultural implements, various arms of war — spears, arrows, swords, and the very rich and varied range of skilfully manufactured fine pottery, beautiful finery and ornaments made out of bronze and precious metals.

We have as yet very scarce information concerning the existence and the role played by the town of Cherven during the Second Bulgarian State. We are in the possession of desultory information from Byzantine annals, reflectig

Ivailo's Uprising during the 13th century, that the Byzantines had captured the Cherven Fortress, in order to prevent the Bulgarians to fortify themselves inside the fortress during the spreading of the uprising.

Behind the mighty fortress walls of the town of Cherven its courageous defenders resisted for long periods of time to the invasions of Tatars and Turks. During the tragic year of 1388, however, this glorious Bulgarian stronghold was forced to capitulate under the cruel assaults of the Ottoman enslavers. Together with the entire Bulgarian state and land the town of Cherven, too, fell under the heavy Ottoman slavery, which lasted five centuries. Almost an entire century after this fateful date the Bulgarians completely abandoned the semi-destructed fortress and settled around the place where the village of the same name exists at present. When the Turkish traveller Moustafa Ben Abdulla (Hadzhi Kalfa) narrated about Rousse in 1650, he wrote as follows regarding Cherven: "The ancient fortress and town were situated, once, not very far away from the Danube River and bore the name of Cherven. One can still see remains of the town, but it looks like a very poor Christian village." In 1652 we meet the name of a bishop with the sobriquet of Cherven.

Another bishop — Serafim of Cherven is being mentioned in annals of 1725, with a seat at Chervena Voda, while even at present the Rousse Mitropolitain bears the title "Dorostolo-Chervenski". The name of the town of Cherven, however, is completely buried in oblivion. At present still another remarkable monument reminds us of the glorious past of the town and fortress:

THE IVANOVO CHURCHES IN THE ROCKS

They derive their name from the village of Ivanovo, in the vicinity of which they are situated --- only 23 kilometres away from Rousse.

The churches and monasteries were built in the rocks near Ivanovo during the existence of the mediaeval town of Cherven. Bulgarian hermits, clergy and monks, guided by their Christian convictions and feelings, retired in seclusion in the caves near Ivanovo and led a strict anchorite existence. They transformed the natural caves into small dwellings, cells, chapels, churches and even into entire monasteries, expanding them further in the rocks. In the inscriptions preserved until now we can read the name of the Bulgarian Tsar Georgi Terterii the First (1280—1291), buried in one of these churches.

The rocky churches were ornamented with skilful murals. In spite of the destructive forces at that time and later on these mural paintings reveal the great mastery of the mediaeval Bulgarian painters of frescoes. Masterpieces of this art are the scenes: "The Prayer in the Gardens of Gethsemane", "Judas returns the 30 silver coins to the Pharisees", "The Lord's Supper", "The Betrayal of Christ by Judas", and others. In the art of these ancient mural painters one already perceives the wordly relationships towards the surrounding actuality and an underlined renouncement of the mediaeval canons. The frescoes over the walls of the rocky churches near Ivanovo, painted during the 14th century, are a remarkable monument of Bulgarian mediaeval fine arts. They actually are a pre-Renaissance monument. Our predecessors have demonstrated an excellent artistic flair, a feeling for proportion, composition and colouring. These mural paintings have provoked a marked interest amidst the international scientific thought, having also become a subject of interest for UNESCO, as well.



Murals discovered in the village of Ivanovo

AGAIN ON THE HISTORICAL SCENE

After the annihilation of Sexaginta Prista, in the course of centuries practically nothing was mentioned of a settlement on the territory of the present-day town of Rousse.

The earliest information about the new town bearing the name of Rousse is from the end of the 16th century. The first person to mention something about Rousse was the Dubrovnik merchant and friend of the Bulgarians Pavel Dzhordzhic, who lived in Bulgaria from 1580 to 1598. During the autumn of 1594 the Wallachian sovereign Mihail Vityazoul launched an attack on the Turkish fortresses along the Danube River, from Machin to Oryahovo, including Rousse (Roushouk). After the routing of the First Veliko-Turnovo Uprising of the Bulgarians in 1598, the name of Roushouk began to be mentioned more and more often — the new town, erected over the remains of the ancient Roman town, but in a much larger scale.

The central place of Rousse as a strategic and communication centre and port on an important riverine route forced the Turks to build around it strong fortifications. One could enter into the town only through five fortified gateways: Kyountoukapu — which still exists, Stambulkapu, Kapalikapu, Kyoulkapu and Ordoukapu.

During the 18th and 19th century the town of Rousse developed as an important economic centre of crafts and commerce — the latter flourished greatly after the Austrian riverine traffic augmented.

During the Ottoman yoke Rousse was seized at two different occasions by Russian armed forces — in 1773 under the commandment of Count Roumyantzev and in 1811 by the Russian General Koutouzov. Napoleon's invasion of Russia compelled the Russians to relinquish the town.

During the second half of the 19th century a number of European countries had set out on a feverish development along the road of capitalism. The Ottoman Empire, on the other hand, was lagging behind, both economically and politically, with a demoralized and corrupt military and feudal social system. In its rapidly disintegrating social and political system, which had began already during the 18th century, the capitalistic forms of economic order and relationships were making a very slow and painful headway.

In spite of the general economic crisis in the Ottoman Empire during the second half of the 19th century, Rousse went through an all-round economic and cultural revival.

Midhat Pasha's House in Rousse



The climax of this revival was during the administrative management of the eminent Turkish statesman Midhat Pasha, who was appointed "vali" or district governor of the Danubian Vilayet (Tuna Vilayetti) in 1864. Distinguished reformer and partisan of a modern development of Turkey — founder of the Young-Turk Movement — he believed, that the Ottoman Empire could be saved from demoralization and corruption only through reforms. On the territory of the Danubian Vilayet he carried out his remarkable experience — to serve as a model to the entire Empire. The Danubian Vilayet consisted of practically the whole of North Bulgaria, the Sofia and Nish districts — all in all 62 kazis (regions). Rousse had been designated as the seat of the new Governor. Midhat Pasha carried out a number of important reforms: administrative, financial, of the law courts and the police administration. He exerted great efforts to give the town of Rousse an European countenance and urbanization: he introduced the street lighting by means of kerosene lanterns, ordered the streets to be paved with stone slabs, the entire postal system was renovated, a modern hospital was built, as well as a home for the aged citizens of the town. The hotels "Gyul Shahin" and "Isliah Hane" were also built during his administration.

Practically all European countries opened consulates in the town and from 1865 onwards the Austrian Royal Navigation Company opened the doors of its travel agency. The Ottoman Government purchased the riverine vessels "Nish", "Saire", "Midhat" as well as 15 barges. The Turkish reformer also set the foundations of a Danubian Navigation Company.

Many new and modern roads were erected in the vilayet during the administration of Midhat Pasha. In 1865 was also founded a large modern agricultural farm called "Noumoune Chiflik", which utilized modern agricultural machines imported from abroad. This farm grew later on into the still very progressive "Obraztsov Chiflik" (Model Farm). The year 1866 also marked the opening of the first railway line in Bulgaria, which linked Rousse to the Black Sea port Varna. In the modern printing house was published the newspaper "Touna" (Danube) — both in Turkish and in Bulgarian. This newspaper continued to be published until the liberation of Bulgaria from Ottoman rule. The newspaper informed its readers about the reforms which were under way and the attained successes on the part of the reformer. With the help of Midhat Pasha a couple of steam flour-mills were established in Rousse, a beer factory, a railway workshop for the repair of the railroad waggons. The central "Banque Ottomane" had a branch bank in Rousse as well. Many foreign agencies and commercial offices, foreign posts and telegraph offices were also opened in Rousse during this period. For a very short period of time the town had become a lively and flourishing commercial center. A very important initiative on the part of Midhat Pasha was also the creation of the so-called Agricultural Savings Banks — establishments for agricultural credits. The Turkish reformer also carried out an important reform of Turkish public schools and education in general.

The penetration of foreign capital into Turkey and more particularly in the Danubian Vilayet did not stimulate the economic development of the country. All these reforms on the part of Midhat Pasha had an underlined bourgeois character and all his initiatives were directed towards the interest of the dominant Turkish authorities and Turkish population. Besides his trials to create mixed Turkish-Bulgarian artisans' schools they pursued the very dangerous strategic aim — the assimilation of the Bulgarian people. In

the political activities of Midhat Pasha there were vivid contradictions. Through his bourgeois reforms he strove to preserve from disintegration the semi-feudal, tyrannical and despotic Ottoman Empire, and allegedly to affiliate the enslaved peoples as such of equal rights with the enslavers. The democratic in appearance deeds of Midhat Pasha were more than illusory, as towards the end of his administration of the vilayet he unveiled his real face of a cruel satrap and despot, stamping out with blood and gallows the national liberation and revolutionary movements of the Bulgarian people.

The Bulgarian population in Rousse, according to a Bulgarian tradition, had long since been organized in its own civic and church community, and a little later on in the respective school communities. These organizations stood at the head of the economic and more so of the social and cultural life of the Bulgarian population. In spite of the unbearable conditions of national discrimination the Bulgarians distinguished themselves as excellent craftsmen and business men. The Bulgarian Revival, which had started during the 18th century in the town of Rousse, manifested itself in its most vivid forms — aspiration towards national and political emancipation of the Bulgarians. Actually during the period of the country's revival the old primitive monastery schools already had yielded its rights to the modern secular system of education and the first Bulgarian secular school in the town of Rousse, which was founded in 1840, took charge of the education of the young Bulgarians. With the help of this school community the intelligent and conscious Bulgarian, born in Rousse, Alexander Hadzhi Rousset published in Strasbourg the first Bulgarian geographic map. A few years later a secular school for girls was also founded in Rousse. At first organized as grammar schools, these schools were soon transformed into high-schools or gymnasiums. The literacy of the Bulgarian population had long since surpassed that of the Turkish population. Several cultural associations were also founded in Rousse, such as: "The Society for the Support of Poor Students" — 1867, "The Women's Charity Organization "Stopanka" — 1869, as well as the Reading-room Club "Zora" — 1866. The "Bulgarian Choral Society" was also founded in the town in 1870. Almost at the same time a strong need was felt for a Bulgarian theatre, which was soon founded. The different societies and the Reading-room Club received numerous Bulgarian and foreign newspapers and magazines. Many Bulgarians in the town subscribed regularly for Bulgarian books and other publications. The national cultural revival amidst the town's population was expressed in a great interest towards the past history of the nation, in the current aspiration for more enlightenment and general culture as well as an underlined readiness for a selfless struggle and self-sacrifice for the liberation of Bulgaria from Ottoman slavery. During the second half of the 19th century Rousse had become the centre of



THE REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLES AGAINST THE OTTOMAN YOKE

The patriotism and the love of freedom of the Bulgarian inhabitants of Rousse during the years of national slavery found expression in their participation in the unceasing struggles and uprisings of the Balkan nations and of the Bulgarian people, in their participation in the Haidouk movement and in the Russo-Turkish wars.

During the 1860s the remarkable Bulgarian revolutionary Georgi Sava Rakovski became the founder of the organized revolutionary struggle for national liberation. The Haidouk movement, as a spontaneous struggle of episodic revenge for personal insult had been replaced by the organization of a revolutionary center beyond the confines of Bulgaria, which was responsible for the forwarding of armed detachments into Bulgaria, the aim of which was to eventually lead the people to a general revolution. Important acts and operations of the Bulgarian Revolutionary Emigration during this period were: The First Bulgarian Legion, under the Leadership of Rakovski, in Belgrade in 1862; the Second Bulgarian Belgrade Legion of 1867; the armed detachments led by Nikola Voivodov and Zvyatko Pavlovich during that same year, Panayot Hitov's and Philip Totyov's detachments in the course of 1867, as well as the famous detachment under the command of Hadzhi Dimitar and Stefan Karadzha in 1868.

THE BABA TONKA HOUSE-MUSEUM

During the period under review Rousse had already become an important center of the Revolutionary Organization and the inhabitants of the town actively participated in the national liberation movement. The home of Tiho and Tonka Obretenovi had become a safe refuge and general staff of the revolutionaries. All the members of the above household participated in the historic battle for liberty. This family has suffered heavy losses for the liberation of the country and has become immortal in the history of the Bulgarian people. Tiho Obretenov was a co-worker and close friend of Rakovski. After his death, his wife Tonka Obretenova, the glorious Baba Tonka (Granny Tonka), educated her children in fiery patriotism and love of freedom. She herself had become a legendary protectress of the fighters for national liberation and actively participated in the national liberation movement. Baba Tonka Obretenova is a respected national heroine. Both her sons Angel and Peter Obretenovi participated in the 1868 detachment led by the legendary Hadzhi Dimitar and Stefan Karadzha. Peter was killed in action, while Angel was captured and sentenced to penal servitude in far-away Saint Jean d'Acre in Asia Minor. Her youngest son — Georgi Obretenov, one of the leaders of the 1876 April Uprising was also killed in action. Another of her sons Nikola Obretenov — a member of the Rousse Revolutionary Committee, was also a member of the Gyourgevo Bulgarian Revolutionary Committee, apostle and member of the commanding staff in the detachment of the great Bulgarian poet and revolutionary Hristo Botev, which crossed the Danube River into Bulgaria in 1876. Captured by the Turks he was sent in exile in Asia Minor where his brother Angel had been serving a penal servitude for ten long years. Baba Tonka's eldest son was also a partisan

The Baba Tonka House-museum





The Monument erected in memory of Baba Tonka

and participant in the movement for the liberation of Bulgaria, as were her two daughters Petrana and Anastasya. Seven children — five sons and two daughters, as well as her own self Mother Tonka dedicated to the revolution for the liberation of Bulgaria.

In his memoirs Nikola Obretenov tells us of an interesting episode, through which is being revealed the moral grandeur of this remarkable Bulgarian-Mother: "On August 6 (1868) the day of the Holy Transfiguration, the Turks brought my brother Angel together with his friends. They were all ten people... With many pleas and bribes my mother was finally allowed to see my brother and was led to the prison together with me. All the officials in the prison gathered around us to see how a chieftain is to meet his mother. My mother, instead of weeping and wailing turned sternly towards my brother and began to scold him: "How many times have I told you — not to associate with vagabonds, because you too will become like them. How did you dare to become an enemy of the Sultan? I have always taught you, have I not, that the Bulgarians are born to be eternal slaves?"

The Turks were more than glad to hear this admonishment and the governor of the prison tapped Baba Tonka gently on the back and said to her: "Bravo, granny!" From this day on the door of the prison was always opened for her, where she could smuggle in and out all kinds of information.

My mother gathered from relatives, friends and partisans suits for all the prisoners and made them change their old ones which were blood-stained from their wounds. The blood had dried on them.

My brother Angel told me how our brother Peter was killed in the same battle during which Stefan Karadzha was mortally wounded. My brother had been wounded in the chest and had fallen to the ground, without uttering a single word. Angel had stood near him and when he had passed away, he closed his eyes..."

An indescribable greatness of spirit was needed, a great heart and a fiery patriotism, in order to put up with such cherished sacrifices — two sons killed and another two exiled for life. At that never to become discouraged and to lose faith in the rightness of the sacred work to which she had dedicated her life until death. Actually in the house of such a Bulgarian mother the giants of the Bulgarian national revolution found warm reception and safety, namely — Rakovski, Levski, Benkovski, Volov, Dragostinov, Izmirliiev and many others. To invite the Turkish dignitaries for a cup of coffee under the same roof, where the fearless revolutionary chieftains were holding their secret meetings and making plans to liberate the land from these same dignitaries, demanded a very great presence of mind and skill to emerge from such awkward situations. That is why Baba Tonka Obretenova is the most popular Bulgarian heroine — mother and revolutionary in the nascent Bulgarian history. That is why her house, situated not very far from the bank of the great river, has been turned into a museum. Here every visitor bends one's head for the great feat of Baba Tonka.

After the period of the armed detachments was over the Bulgarian revolutionary and liberation movement entered into a new, a higher phase. The founder of the new revolutionary tactics Vasil Levski travelled throughout Bulgaria and explained to the people, that the liberty of the Fatherland could be attained only through a general revolution of the entire nation in which the masses of the population were to participate inside the land and not to rely on a foreign aid from abroad. This really great Bulgarian carried out a gigantic work in the erection of a wide network of revolutionary committees and the setting up of the Internal Revolutionary Organization. The inhabitants of Rousse did not lag behind and in 1871 organized the town of Rousse Revolutionary Committee, of which all the patriotic-minded youths of the town became members.

The organization, on a nation-wide scale, set up by Levski was responsible for the 1875 Uprising and particularly the April Uprising of 1876, which was the peak of Bulgarian National Revolution. The population of Rousse suffered heavy losses.

THE PARK OF NATIONAL REVIVAL WORKERS

The old Rousse cemetery, now currently called the Park of national revival workers and Pantheon of the Immortals, hoards the mortal remains of Stefan Karadzha, the chieftains Nikola Voivodov and Zvyatko Pavlovich, both of whom were arrested by the Turkish police on board the Austrian steamship "Germania". In it are also buried Stefan Bilchev — a member of the detachment of Hadzhi Dimitar and Stefan Karadzha executed by hanging; Angel Kunchev — a notable revolutionary who committed suicide on the quay, as well as many others known and unknown heroes. Later on there were also buried Lyouben Karavelov, Dimitar Tzenovich, the chieftain Panayot Hitov and the entire Obretenov clan.

The end of the five-centuries long tyranny of the town of Rousse came on February 20, 1878, after heavy battles of the Russian Liberation forces near the villages of Mechka, Ivanovo and Trustenik. More than 200,000 Russian soldiers lost their lives for the liberty of Bulgaria.

During the last three decades of the restless 19th century began

THE NEW HISTORY OF THE BULGARIANS



The Monument of the
Russophiles

After many centuries of suffering began a new, free life. The productive forces of the Bulgarian people, its national culture and arts also began to be developed, unhindered. Rousse rapidly became an important administrative, economic and cultural center. It continued to be a first-rate port — gateway to Europe. The all-round progress of the town was more than doubtless, but according to the laws of social development the newly-liberated land entered into the phase of capitalistic development, and at that at a point, when the West European countries had gone beyond the limits of its zenith. This historical epoch provoked economic, social and political concussions. Towards the end of the 1880s the Bulgarian government strained its relations with its liberators, more exactly with the Russian Tsarist government. This fact provoked internal political struggles in all circles. During Stefan Stambolov's government Bulgaria broke off diplomatic relations with Russia. The people's love and gratitude towards our liberators, however, was and continues to be absolute and unconditional. The exponents of this people's love towards Russia in Rousse were Major Atanas Ouzounov, Toma Kardzhiev, Olimpii Panov, the army officers Zelengorov, Krastenyakov, Filov, Trambeshki, Enchev, etc., who on February 19, 1887 (according to the Julian calendar) organized the so-called Revolt of the Russophile officers. The mutiny was quenched very rapidly and on March 22, 1887, the conspirators, many of whom were eminent participants in the national-liberation and revolutionary movement, were executed.

After the liberation of Bulgaria Rousse was the largest town in Bulgaria (it even had a more numerous population than the capital city — Sofia). It was a center of lively commerce. The town became the seat of many workshops, factories, flourmills, warehouses for various wholesale merchandise, stock-holding and insurance companies. One of the first banks in Rousse was called "Girdap", founded with imported capitals. The capitalistic development of the town created a working class, which in this initial stage of Bulgarian capitalism was cruelly exploited. Thus a strong worker's movement sprang up in the town, and the workers of Rousse were the first in the country to organize regular strikes. The worker's movement was followed by a socialist movement — thus a new social force had sprung up on the social arena —

THE ROUSSE PROLETARIAT AND ITS LEADERS

In the course of 1891 the constitutive congress, which was held on peak Bouzloudzha in the Balkan Range, laid the beginnings of the Bulgarian Workers' Social Democratic Party. Only a year after that the first socialist groups "Svetlina" and "Komouna" were founded in Rousse, both of which prophesied and propagandized socialist ideas.

A Socialist Party Organization was set up four years later, at the head of which were Ivan Troenski, Peter Strelovski, N. Penev and others. Alongside with the different workers' syndicates it struggled in the defence of the workers' interests as well as for the ideological and class consciousness of the Rousse proletariat.

At the beginning of July 1903 Rousse was the lieu of the 10th Party Congress. It was held in the then Hotel "Central" (at present the new Rousse post office is erected on the same grounds). Dimitar Blagoev and Georgi Kirkov were present at this congress. The right-wing socialists and the opportunists were strongly criticized, denounced and expelled from the ranks of the party.

The leaders of the party D. Blagoev, G. Kirkov, G. Georgiev, Georgi Dimitrov and Vasil Kolarov came on frequent visits to the town of Rousse.

In 1910 at a mass meeting in Rousse Georgi Dimitrov delivered a speech in which he talked about the workers class in Bulgaria and its problems.

During the communal elections in 1911 as municipal councillors were elected the party members and activists Naiden Kirov, Alexander Atanasov, Dimiter Anastasov and Georgi Tokoushev.

The 19th congress of the Bulgarian Workers' Social Democratic Party (left-wing socialists) was held in Rousse in 1912 at the "Sava Ognyanov" Theatre. The congress sharply criticized the aggressive aspirations of Tsar Ferdinand and of the Bulgarian bourgeoisie.

Participants at the 10th Congress of the Bulgarian Workers' Social Democratic Party, held in Rousse in 1903



During that same year, again in Rousse, was held the constituent conference of the Union of the Workers' Social-Democratic Youth of Bulgaria. At the conference was also present Georgi Dimitrov—representative of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Workers' Social Democratic Party (left-wing socialists) and of the General Workers' Syndical Union. The premises where the conference was held hoards a museum collection now.

The ideas of the 1917 October Revolution in Russia instilled new forces in the ranks of the Rousse proletariat, from which sprang up the revolutionaries—Marxists Alexander Atanasov—Member of the Bulgarian Parliament on the part of the Workers' Social Democratic Party and a member of its Supreme council; Naiden Kirov—member of the Control Committee of the Central Committee of the Party. The latter was a delegate at the 3rd Congress of the Comintern in Moscow and his personal meeting with Lenin gave him a still greater impetus in his struggle in defence of the cause of the party of the left-wing socialists.

The rightful and just policy of the party organization in Rousse, its unflinching fight for freedom, the fascination and personal charm of its leaders helped a great deal towards the rapid affirmation of its authority as a fighter for more human happiness. The logical result of this consistent policy of the party organization in Rousse was its overwhelming victory at the 1919 municipal election, which lay the beginnings of

THE ROUSSE COMMUNE

Although the Commune existed for only three years—from 1919 to 1921, the Communist-led municipality and its first mayor Rostislav Blaskov and his successor after his decease Rousko Pophristov, as well as the distinguished party leaders Alexander Atanasov, N. Kirov, D. Atanasov, Georgi Tokoushev and many others, carried out numerous measures which were directed to defend the interests of the masses. The Commune ordered the electrification of the poor quarters of the town, improved the town's water-supply, organized municipal shops, etc. The workers received gratuitous medicines and the poor students clothes and school appliances.

The inhabitants of Rousse immediately responded to Lenin's appeal and displayed great willingness and activity in gathering and purchasing of foodstuffs for the suffering population around the Volga River basin, which was an expression of their solidarity with the peoples of the Soviet Union.

After the 1923 September Uprising was stamped out, in Bulgaria began the sanguinary repressions on the part of the fascist dictatorship.

Victims of the great terror in Rousse were the notable party functionaries A. Atanasov, Naiden Kirov, Vela Piskova, Toncho Galchavov, Mincho Topalov, Philip Rakovski and their comrades—members of the Agrarian party Peter Popov, Alexander Hadzhipetrov, Nikola Dekov, etc.

In spite of this hard blow and the cherished victims the Communist party continued to fight. The revolutionary struggles were continued by Peter Strelkovski, Peter Karaminchev, Rousko Pophristov and others.

After the treacherous attack on the part of Nazi Germany of the Soviet Union, the Bulgarian Communist Party decided to wage an armed struggle against fascism and its servants in Bulgaria.

The Rousse proletariat also took an active part in this grand struggle through battle groups which were created by order of the District Committee of the BCP.

In October 1941 the fearless communist Leon Tadzher set fire on the German benzine warehouses and depots situated in Rousse. Sentenced to death, when allowed to say his last wish, he declared the following remarkable words: "The imperialistic wars are a disgrace for humanity. Let us put an end to them!"

Zdravko Champoev also lost his life in 1942 due to treachery. He was one of the leaders of the battle groups.

Over 60 revolutionaries were arrested in 1943, while the secretaries of the District Committee of the Party Peter Karaminchev and Dyanko Stefanov and the well-known activists Tinka Dzhein, Izidor Eisner, Ivan Delchev, Angel Getsov, Angel Glavchev and many others were brutally killed.

Black clouds began to hang over Bulgaria, caused by the unheard of terror. Hardly 65 years had passed from that gloomy time, during which the heads of the fighters for national liberation were carried around thrust onto stakes by the Ottoman enslavers, now the corpses of the new fighters for more human happiness and justice began to be displayed in public squares in towns and villages all over Bulgaria, disfigured through the cruelty of unheard of sadism. Hundreds of thousands of leva were promised for the heads of others.

Mara Maneva



During the spring of 1944 one began to feel more and more tangibly the historic victory of the Soviet Union in its just Patriotic War. Already certain that its end was drawing near the fascist authorities took the lives of a great many loyal Bulgarians: Ana Ventoura, Todor Koinov, Mara Maneva, Zvetanka Champoeva and her three-years old son Nikolcho, Kina Vasileva (Boika), Andrei Yordanov and many others.

If they had lived only several months longer they would have seen the greatest of all great days, the most cherished day to all Bulgarians



Ana Ventoura

THE DAY OF LIBERTY

For the inhabitants of Rousse this day came in the morning of September 8, 1944, when the Soviet armies crossed the legendary Danube and were greeted by the jubilant citizens for a second time.

From the ranks of the triumphant were missing all those who had shed their blood for this memorable day.

New sunny days were in store for our fatherland. New days were dawning for peaceful victories and successes for the citizens of Rousse as well, who with pride and rejoicing mark off their epoch-making achievements.



The first Soviet soldiers in Rousse — September 8 th 1944

INDUSTRY

Both in the past, nowadays too, Rousse is one of the largest industrial centres of Bulgaria. After September 9, 1944 its industrial potential has grown beyond belief. One week's production at present equals that of the entire 1948.

The number of plants, factories and industrial establishments is well over 60. The more important among them are the following plants and factories: the Georgi Dimitrov Plant for Agricultural Implements and Machines; the Ivan Dimitrov Ship-Building Yard; the Vasil Kolarov Lokomotive and Railway Carriages Plant; the Naiden Kirov Electro-Isolational Plant; the Peter Karaminchev Plant for the Production of Plastic Wares; the Leon Tadzher Petrochemical Plant; the Zhiti Iron and Steel Works, etc. The town of Rousse has also given hospitality to a plant for the production of flour-milling machines, a pipeframe furniture factory,

the Zita Gauging Instrument's Plant, the Dimiter Blagoev Plant for the Production of Sugar, Yeast and Citric Acid, etc. Important headway has also been registered by the road-building machines' plants, the electro-insulational enterprises, such for the production of paints and varnishes, for asphalt and mineral oils, fire-proof materials, furniture, wood-works (doors and windows), the cotton and silk factories, such for the production of stockings, ready-to-wear clothes, soap, leather and bags' factories. The town's food industry is flourishing as well — canneries, fruit juices, aerated soft drinks, bioconcentrated foods, etc. The modern wine-producing plant situated in Rousse has a production of over 30 million bottles of wine per annum. The Thermo-Electric Power Plants in and around Rousse ensure sufficient electric energy, utilizing coal imported from the Soviet Union.

Many of the products manufactured in the plants and factories of Rousse find excellent markets in many countries all over the world.



GEORGI DIMITROV
Agricultural Machines
Plant



The NAIDEN KIROV
Plant

AGRICULTURE

The soil and climatic conditions in the district favour the all-round development of agriculture, as well. It has been organized along a modern and fully-mechanized principle, as distinguished from the backward, small and parcelled-up primitive agriculture prior to September 9, 1944. Agriculture nowadays fully satisfies the growing needs of industry and of the population.

Grain production is the basic branch of agriculture in the Rousse District, while sugar beet is practically as important. The greatest place in animal husbandry is taken up by the breeding of cattle and pigs.

The District of Rousse possesses 170 thousand hectares of arable land, which represents 3,61 per cent of the arable land of the country.

The agricultural production in the district is organized into five agricultural enterprises — four agrarian-industrial combines and one industrial-agricultural combine. Each one of them possesses between 20 to 45 thousand hectares of land. A vertical integration has been achieved in the industrial-agricultural complex.

The large vine-massifs near Rousse produce the amber-coloured BOLGAR grapes, the aromatic MISKET variety, the rareripe CHAUSH and the large and juicy CARDINAL grape sorts. Thousands of tons of BOLGAR grapes are exported every year to Hambourg and Oslo, Moscow and Leningrad.

To the east of the town, near the village of Marten there are large expanses of greenhouses for the production of vegetables, flowers, etc., while in the vicinity of the village of Krasen there exist large mushroom-farms grown in natural caves. The district of Rousse is a great producer of fruit and vegetables.

If you were to visit some of the near-by villages, Slivo-Pole, for example, you will be able to admire the modern vineyards, orchards, a plant for fruit juices, green-houses, fields that are irrigated with up-to date raining machines and modern livestock farms.



The fruitfulness of the district of Rouse



TRANSPORT

Rousse is an important transport junction — the gateway of Socialist Bulgaria. The Rousse port is the largest riverine Bulgarian port in respect to the volume of imports, exports and passenger traffic. At the present moment another new large port is being constructed equipped with contemporary cranes and a special zone for wares and goods in bulk and in containers.

Rousse is the seat of the Bulgarian Riverine Navigation Company "Bulgarsko Rečno Plavane", and other administrative offices connected with the research, upkeep and cleaning of the river bottom, as well as the repair of boats and barges.

The passenger lines are serviced by the modern vessel "Georgi Dimitrov" and the rapid boats with under-water wings "Raketa" and "Meteor". The three vessels achieve the regular daily service Rousse — Vidin, Rousse — Svishtov, Rousse — Silistra. The modern and very comfortable vessels "Alexander Stamboliiski", "Dimitar Blagoev" and the renovated historic boat "Radezki" are utilized for regular tourist voyages to Belgrade, Bratislava, Vienna, Braila and Izmail. Soviet and other foreign vessels regularly stop at the Rousse port — carrying out tourist and freight trips from Vienna to Izmail.

There is a regular ferry-boat connection between Rousse and Gyurgevo. After the Bridge of Friendship was erected, the ferry-boat "Sofia" (with a capacity of 18 railroad carriages) is utilized as a reserve boat for the transportation of equipment for the flawless exploitation of the riverine route.

The Bridge of Friendship plays a very important transport role. It is built on two storeys — for railway and automobile transport, connecting Bulgaria with Romania near the regions of Rousse and Gyurgevo. The bridge has greatly aided international transport. The trains to Bucharest and Moscow go through it (the "Blue Danube" express train). Via Bucharest Rousse is linked to many lands in Central, Northern and Western Europe.

The oldest railroad line in Bulgaria is the one linking Rousse to Varna. It was built between 1864—1866. From Rousse starts the railway line across the Balkan Range, which links the town to Gorna Oryahovitsa, Veliko Turnovo, Stara Zagora, Dimitrograd, Haskovo, Kirdzhali and Podkova. Several railroad compositions travel daily from Rousse to Sofia — the fastest of which is the "Blue Danube" express.

The "Balkan" Bulgarian Airlines have regular daily flights linking Rousse to Sofia, Varna, Bourgas, Plovdiv and Targovishte. The Rousse airport is near the village of Shtruklevo.

The town transport in Rousse is achieved by means of 13 different lines of buses and during the summer months by a hydro-bus along the banks of the Danube River.



At the airport —
Rousse

The Central Railway
Station



Autobus Station



EDUCATION

For the thousands school children of Rouse there are 6 primary and 20 secondary schools. The town also boasts of several kinds of gymnasiums (high-schools): such for general education (the basic language in which is Russian and English); a night-school, a musical high-school, a sports' gymnasium and a musical school. The greater part of the town's youth continues its further education in the technical schools. The Agricultural Technical School was founded in 1883. This school as well as the technical school for wood-processing and inner architecture were the first of their kind to have been founded in the country, while the technical schools for grain-sorting and riverine transport, are the only ones existing in the land. Many young people study in the Technical School of Electronics, of Industrial Chemistry, Clothes and Shoes, Public Catering, Machine-Building and Metal-Processing, the Medical High-School, the high-schools for economics, construction and mechanical engineering. Cadres for the town of Rouse industry are also educated at the professional schools of ship-building, railway transport, house-building, automobile transport, repair of agricultural machinery, textile, etc.

Rouse is also a university town. The Higher Institute of Machine-Building, Mechanization and Electrification of Rural Economy trains engineering cadres for agriculture, the machine-building industry and ship-building.

The "M. I. Kalinine" Institute for the Training of Kindergarten Teachers has the educational qualification of a regular college, with a two-year course of study.

A R T S

The town of Rousse is well-known with its cultural traditions. The town's dramatic theatre was founded more than 70 years ago. It regularly presents plays by Bulgarian and foreign authors. The State Symphony Orchestra was set up in 1947, and the Rousse Opera in 1949. The very important possibilities of the Rousse musical institutes and of their respective performers find the greatest expression in the traditional March Musical Days, in which participate distinguished orchestras, operas and performers from the land and from many foreign countries. The Rousse State Puppet Show opened its doors in 1963.

The Rousse Picture Gallery has on regular exposition more than 500 canvases and other works of art.

The district library "Lyouben Karavelov" hoards more than 300 thousand volumes of books, many reading-rooms, musical department, etc. Interesting and important cultural activity is carried out by: The Home of Culture of the Transport Workers, the Pionners' Home, the Interclub, the House of the Teachers, the Home of Technics, the Home for Political Education, the homes of culture of the Ministry of Interior, of the medical workers, as well as the numerous reading-room clubs in the town, the most outstanding of which are "Zora" and "Angel Kunchev". All these homes and clubs are centres of amateur art activities. The glory of Rousse as a "singing town" has been earned by the choirs "Rodina" with the exemplary reading-room club "Zora" the "Dounavski Zvouts" Choir, a creation of the Angel Kunchev reading-room club, the choirs of the plants "Georgi Dimitrov", "Vasil Kolarov" and the amateur art collective of the Home of Culture. All these choirs, as well as the folklore dance ensemble of the "Naiden Kir'ov" Plant have participated at many festivals and guest performances abroad.

The National Opera



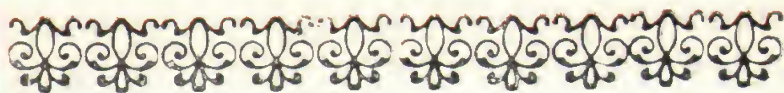
The Dancing Ensemble at the N. KIROV Plant



The RODINA Choir



Scene of a performance of the National Opera



In the exhibition hall



Scene of a performance of the Puppet Theatre



The Rousse Philharmony

CULTURAL INSTITUTES AND UNDERTAKINGS:

THE "SAVA OGNYANOV" DRAMATIC THEATRE. During the Rousse Commune the theatre became a municipal establishment. One of the founders of Bulgarian theatre — Sava Ognyanov, who later on became its patron, worked in the theatre as an actor, together with other very distinguished Bulgarian actors, namely: Krustyo Sarafov, Adriana Boudevska, Vladimir Tenev, Stoyan Bachvarov, S. Kirov, M. Makedonski and many others.

The very talented present-day actors and the skilfully selected repertoire of contemporary and classical plays has led the "Sava Ognyanov" Theatre to one of the leading places in the country's theatrical art.

THE NATIONAL OPERA was founded in 1949. Rousse is very proud with it and we heartily recommend you to go to one of its performances.

THE ROUSSE PHILHARMONY was created in 1947 and enjoys a very good name as a creative ensemble.

THE ART GALLERY was set up in 1953. It has over 500 works of art in its regular permanent exposition.

THE PUPPET SHOW was founded in 1962. Its various productions, about 50, have always been a holiday for the young spectators of the town.

THE MARCH MUSICAL DAYS. They are one of the most remarkable musical events in the country. They are held every year towards the end of the month of March. The March Musical Days have already become an international festival of great renown. The orchestras of the Berlin Radio, of Radio Bucharest and the Dresden Radio have been taking part in the festival ever since its foundation. The Belgrade Philharmony is also a regular participant of the festival, as is also the Symphony Orchestra of Radio Moscow and of Katowitze — Poland, the town of Lodz Philharmony, a Japanese Children's Choir and many other musicians also participated at this year's festival.

Alongside with the professional ensembles a number of amateur ensembles also sprang up spontaneously in Roussee, most of which have brought fame and renown to the country.

THE RODINA CHOIR WITH THE "ZORA" READING-ROOM CLUB, is the bearer of the Kiril and Metodi Order. The choir has won first prizes and gold medals at many local and international festivals. It won three first prizes — for its mixed, male and female compositions at the 1966 Langolen (Great Britain) Festival.

THE DOUNAVSKI ZVOUTZI CHOIR. One of the most renowned amateur choral ensembles in the land.

The town of Rousse also boasts of many other choirs — representatives of many reading-room clubs, plants and other administrative and social groups.

Everything said until now does not deplete all the remarkableness of and in the town of Rousse. They are many and could be talked about for a long time still. But let us now continue our tour of the town and show you its

RICH ARCHITECTURAL RESPLENDENCE

We are now in the centre of the town. Look carefully at all the edifices erected in the central town square and the Ninth of September Boulevard. Many architectural styles are to be seen here: Baroque, Renaissance, Fin du Siècle, Empire. These styles taken together make of Rousse the only town in Bulgaria, which according to its architectural aspect resembles a number of European capitals.

THE MONUMENT OF LIBERTY was erected in 1908. It is one of the most beautiful monuments in the country. It symbolizes Liberty. The central figure and the monument as such are turned towards Russia — our Liberator. It is a complex-monument, which very thriftily and at the same time in a relief manner reflects the different episodes of the struggles for this national liberation. The figures and the bas-reliefs of the monument have been worked out by the renowned Italian sculptor Arnolfo Zocchi.

The March Musical Days Festival



Scene of a performance of the Theatre „S. Ognyanov“



The Monument of
Victory



Only 50 metres to the west of the monument is the unequalled architectural composition of the dramatic theatre. This unique edifice houses at the same time the theatre, the "ZORA" Reading-room Club, the Art Gallery and the Prista Restaurant.

This real architectural masterpiece is built in the Baroque style between 1893 and 1902. The plans of the edifice were designed by the Viennese architects Paul Brannk and Georg Lanck.

The house adjoining the theatre houses the Teteven Pastry Shop. It not only does not infringe upon, but very skilfully complements the architectural composition. It was built according to the plans of Nino Rossetti. The building which houses at present the House of the Sailor was also built to the plans of this same architect.

Original according to their architectural styles are also the edifices of the Musical Academy and the Economic Technical School on Georgi Dimitrov Boulevard; that of Hotel Sevastopol — Slavyanska Street, the Martinov House — now the Club of the Cultural Workers, Vitosha Hotel, the building of Ministry of the Interior, the Potsdam Restaurant and many other buildings which are situated between the public squares Lenin and Deveti Septemvri.

The citizens of Rousse have immortalized their gratitude towards the fighters for liberty and have erected many

The Monument of the Soviet Army





The musical High School

HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

THE MONUMENT IN HONOUR OF THE SOVIET ARMY. It was erected in 1949, and its inscription on the face plate reads: "To the brotherly Soviet soldiers-liberators, an everlasting gratitude from the workers of Rousse!" It is an expression of the love of the Bulgarians and their eternal gratitude towards the glorious Soviet Army. This monument is erected at the entrance of the Park of Youth, at the end of Boulevard Deveti Septemvri.

THE COMMON GRAVE. Situated near the Halite Supermarket, between the Boulevards Lenin and Deveti Septemvri. The mortal remains of Naiden Kirov, Alexander Atanasov, Dyanko Stefanov, Vela Piskova, Zdravko Champoev, Ana Ventura, Izidor Eisner, Leon Tadzher, Mara Maneva, Angel Getsov; Angel Glavchev and many others are buried in it.

THE MONUMENT OF THE BULGARIAN SOLDIER, is erected on the Deveti Septemvri Square in honour and memory of the Bulgarian soldiers who lost their lives during the Serbian-Bulgarian War of 1885..

MONUMENT OF THE RUSSOPHILES. It is to be seen on the road to Varna in its deviation in the direction to the town of Koubrat. A three-metre high sculpture of a woman shows the sorrows of the Motherland towards its faithful sons. It was erected as a gratitude towards the officers who took part in the Revolt of the Russophiles. On this same spot were executed the army majors Atanas

Ouzounov, Olimpii Panov, Toma Kardzhiev and others. During the years of the fascist dictatorship the monument was destroyed, but it was restored in 1967.

THE MONUMENT TO THE BULGARIAN SAILORS. Erected in the courtyard of the former Danubian River Fleet Administration, in memory of the Bulgarian sailors who died in action.

THE MONUMENT OF OTETZ PAISSI. Situated in front of the Nikola Vapzarov School on the Deveti Septemvri Boulevard. The monument is dedicated to the first Bulgarian enlightener of the 18th century, who ignited the initial spark of hope and of national consciousness and in those gloomy days of Ottoman political slavery and Phanariot spiritual yoke, raised the fiery appeal: "Oh, You unreasonable people, why art thou ashamed to call yourselves Bulgarians? Have not the Bulgarians too, had their proper country and kingdom?"

THE MONUMENT TO RAICHO NIKOLOV. Erected in memory of the brave youth, who during the summer of 1854 swam across the Danube River in order to give an important information to the Russian Commandment concerning a Turkish offensive in the course of the Crimean War (1853—1856). The monument is situated along the riverside alley of the Park of Youth and was erected in 1953.

THE MONUMENT OF STEFAN KARADZHA. Erected in the centre of the town, very near to the Halite Supermarket, on the spot where he was executed. This monument is to remind the present and the future generations of the hero's immortal feat.

THE MONUMENT IN MEMORY OF DYANKO STEFANOV. It is erected on the road to Veliko Turnovo, on the very place where he was killed. The monument is built out of white Rousse stone and is an expression of popular gratitude towards the immortal fighter for national liberation. Dyanko Stefanov was secretary of the District Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party in Rousse.

THE LENIN MONUMENT. Situated along the Lenin Boulevard. It is a monumental structure, as were the ideas of Lenin — the founder of the Soviet Union, who developed in a creative way the proletarian ideology — the invincible weapon of the working class.

Guests and friends of our town, in order that your impressions be more complete, you should also visit

The common grave



THE MUSEUMS OF ROUSSE



THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY — 4, D. Blagoev Street

Through the numerous exhibits you will be able to learn a great deal about the ancient and contemporary history of Rousse. The exhibits of the Selishtna Mogila (Settlement Mound), Sexaginta Prista, Cherven, as well as those regarding the national-liberation struggles and the workers' revolutionary movement reflecting the most characteristic moments and epochs of the development of Rousse — ancient and new.

Open: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday — 10.00 to 12.00 and 15.00 to 18.00; Saturday from 15.00 to 18.00; Sunday from 10.00 to 12.00.

THE BABA TONKA HOUSE-MUSEUM. 16, A. Stamboliiski Street

Open: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10.00 to 12.00 and from 15.00 to 18.00; Saturday from 10.00 to 12.00; Sunday — from 10.00 to 12.00 and from 15.00 to 18.00.

THE MUSEUM EXHIBITS OF THE YOUTHFUL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT. 8, Hristo Botev Street

Through the many exhibits you will be able to learn about the Constituent Meeting of the Union of Social Democratic Youth held in the town in 1912 under the leadership of G. Dimitrov.

THE PANTHEON erected in memory of leaders and enlighteners of the Bulgarian National Revival was unveiled on March 3, 1978 on the occasion of the Centennial Anniversary of the liberation of Bulgaria from Ottoman yoke. The names of 450 such heroes are engraved on its walls—members of the Rousse Revolutionary Committee, participants in various combat detachments, cultural and educational workers. The bones of some of them also repose in the Pantheon.



The Dyanko Stefanov Monument



The Monument of
Otetz Paissi

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS is the only one of its kind in the country, opened in 1966 in honour of the centennial anniversary of the first Bulgarian railway line, linking Rousse to Varna (1866). The exhibits of the museum comprise examples of the country's railroad transport, its riverine navigation and other means of communication.

THE OLD RAILWAY STATION ROUSSE-EAST HAS ALSO BEEN TURNED INTO A MUSEUM.

Here the visitors will be able to see the first locomotive 148, ever imported into Bulgaria — the so-called Sultanie (bought during the reign of the Sultan Abdul Aziz in 1866); the vessel "Iskar" a rich collection of telephones, telegraphs and many other interesting exhibits.

Open: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 10.00 to 12.00 and from 13.30 to 17.30.

INTERESTING TOURIST SITES

THE BRIDGE SPANNING THE DANUBE RIVER — also known as the Bridge of Friendship. It was built from 1952 to 1954 and links Bulgaria to Romania and to many other lands in Europe, via Bucharest. The bridge is a symbol of friendship which exists between the socialist countries and their peaceful international policy.

THE ORLOVA CHOUKA CAVE

Situated near the village of Pepelina — 43 km from Rousse. The stalactites, stalagmites and the stalactones which you can admire in this cave are unequalled in beauty. The excavations made there show that it had been inhabited by primeval tribes.

THE LIPNIK FORESTRY PARK is a lawful pride of the inhabitants of Rousse. With its lime, oak and acacia forests, green meadows and lakes it is an excellent place for rest

The Bridge of Friendship





A part of the LIPNIK forestry park
The Fishmongers' Lodge Restaurant



and recreation during the holidays. It is outdistanced from Rouse by not more than 12 km and is easily accessible by means of the regular bus lines, linking the park to the town.

Our mutual excursions lasted quite a time. We visited many remarkable sites.

Most certainly you need some rest and restoration of your forces.

We do not want to infringe upon your liberty where to go for lunch or dinner. We leave the choice to you alone. As hospitable hosts, however, we are in the position to offer you a rich information on the subject. We hope and suppose, that it will help you to make a proper decision.

HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS

THE RIGA COMPLEX is situated along the banks of the Blue Danube. It is a beautiful 20-storey building. The hotel has to offer 348 beds, including the places of entertainment and public catering establishments:

- Basic (main) restaurant with 235 seats inside and 200 on the terrace

- Panorama Restaurant on the last floor — 60 seats

- Pastry-Shop — 100 indoor and 150 out-of-door seats

- Panorama Bar — accommodating 20 persons and a

- Hotel Bar also for 20 guests.

THE DANUBE COMPLEX is in the centre of the town, facing the Town Park. The hotel can accommodate 241 guests of the town, including:

- the Restaurant Danube, with a beige, blue and red dining-rooms, with a total of 253 seats and a Summer Garden Restaurant for 724 guests

- The Ezeroto Tavern — 67 places

- The Dalbok Zimnik Tavern — 65 places

- Danube Pastry-Shop which can serve 206 persons in its closed premises and 120 guests out-of-doors

- Bar-Aperitif — 15 seats

- Night Bar "Danube" — 68 seats

RIBARSKI KOLIBI COMPLEX

- Restaurant seating 120 guests inside and 120 on its terrace

- Camping site accommodating 146 guests

- Bar-Aperitif for 60 persons

- A small tavern situated on the Rousse — Sofia road.

THE LEBEDA RESTAURANT is situated on an elevation from where there is an excellent view of the town. It has several originally furnished dining halls with a total of 302 seats

THE STRANDZHATA TAVERN. 5, Ivan Dimitrov Street Folkstyle restaurant-tavern seating 243 persons.

All the catering establishments of Interhotels BALKAN-TOURIST — Rousse, such as RIGA etc., offer to their guests various menus and drinks. The night-bar RIGA also offers a rich attraction programme. There is a discoteque at the DANUBE Complex.

Having seen and enjoyed your stay in Rousse, you will be wondering how to get again on road, but before leaving the town you should buy a souvenir from the well-equipped Souvenir Shop (Magazin Za Souveniri) in RIGA Complex, or in the special pavilions in the halls of the DANUBE (Dounav) hotel. This souvenir will remind you, pleasantly, we hope, of your sojourn in Rousse and in Bulgaria.

You might even be wanting to go shopping around town.
The following shops are at your service and disposal:

- DETMAG — 75, Devēti Septemvri Boulevard
- ROUSSE — 23, Devēti Septemvri Boulevard
- ADAM and EVE — also on the same boulevard, as well as the first supermarket in the land — HALITE.



The HALITE supermarket

ASQ

A corner of the Souvenirs Shop at the Riga Complex



DEAR GUESTS of our town,

At the hour of parting we would be very glad if we have succeeded to meet all your requirements. You are always welcome to come back to Rousse whenever you feel like it.

We believe that the following information will be of great use to you.

If you travel by road and private car:

—to Romania and elsewhere in Europe you have to pass across the Bridge of Friendship. To get to it start from the centre of the town and follow the Petko D. Petkov Street eastward, until you come to Pliska Street, which will lead you to the Toutrakan Boulevard which ends up at the entrance of the bridge;

—to Silistra — you should follow the same itinerary;

—to Sofia — ride over the Georgi Dimitrov Boulevard and then the Smirnenski Boulevard in northern direction;

—to Varna — follow the Lenin Boulevard which will take you to the International Highway and following the southern direction you will pass by the Monument of the Russophiles. Once there go straight ahead.

If you are to travel by railway, then utilize the services of the

BULGARIAN STATE RAILWAYS

All trains leaving for Varna, Sofia, Plovdiv or Bucharest, Moscow, Berlin and elsewhere in Europe, you are to catch from the Central Railway Station.

Your hotel information service will give you the exact time of departure of the trains (passenger or express) or you could inform yourself personally on the following phones:

2-22-13; 2-28-45; 2-24-02

If you are to prefer flying, then the

BALKAN Bulgarian Airlines will give you all the information you need. Rousse is connected by air to Sofia, Plovdiv, Bourgas and from there to all directions of the land. Use also the phones; 2-89-53; 2-41-61; 2-21-48.

BULGARIAN RIVERINE NAVIGATION

It has at its disposal several first-class passenger vessels as well the boats with under-water wings "Meteor" and "Raketa" which have daily courses to Vidin and Silistra

For further information use phone. 2-27-91

At parting let us wish you heartily "good-bye"! We will be expecting you in our sunny and hospitable country and its Danube River beautiful town of R O U S S E!

WE WISH YOU A PLEASANT TRIP!

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Phones:

National Bank of Bulgaria — 5, A. Atanasov Street	2-21-41
Change Bureau at the Central Railway Station	2-40 48

FRONTIER OUTLETS:

— Central Railway Station	2-24-61
— Distribution Station	4-13-63
— The Danube River Bridge	4 01 86
— The Riverine port	2-77-80
— Ferry-boat	2-20-70
— Electric Power Station	2-44-67
— Frontier inspection of plant quarantine	4-13-81
Tourist information — Danube Bridge	4-05-25
— C h a n g e (currency)	4-05-25

N o t e: The following coins are in current circulation: 1, 2, 5, 20 & 50 stotinki, as well as coins of 1 and 2 leva — in bronze and nickel alloys. The Bulgarian banknotes are in the values of: 1, 2, 5, 10 & 20 leva.

RUSE



C O N N V E N T I O



Balkantourist



Hotel



Library



„Balkan” Airlines



Muzeum



Art Gallery



Railway Bureau



Theatre



Monument



Post Office

V



N A L S I G N S








- | | | |
|---|--|---|
|  Bureau |  River Transport Station |  Filling Station |
|  Bus Station |  Automobile Service Station |  Custom House |
|  Taxi | | |



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Geographical information	4
2. A rich historical past	5
3. Sexaginta Prista	8
4. Cherven — successor of Sexaginta Prista	11
5. The Ivanovo Churches in the rocks	14
6. Again on the historical scene	15
7. The revolutionary struggles against the Ottoman yoke	19
8. The Baba Tonka House-museum	20
9. The Park of national revival workers	23
10. The new history of the Bulgarians	24
11. The Rouse proletariat and its leaders	26
12. The Rouse Commune	28
13. The Day of Liberty	30
14. Industry	30
15. Agriculture.	32
16. Transport	34
17. Education.	36
18. Arts	37
19. Cultural institutes and undertakings	40
20. Rich architectural resplendence	41
21. Historical monuments	44
22. The museums of Rouse	46
23. Interesting tourist sites	48
24. Hotels and Restaurants	50
25. Bulgarian State Railways	53
26. Bulgarian Airlines BALKAN	53
27. Bulgarian Riverine Navigation	54
28. General information	55
29. Tourist and commercial enterprises	57
30. Hotels	58
31. Theatres	58
32. Cultural Institutes	59
33. Cinemas	59
34. Museums	60
35. Public homes and social clubs	60
36. Hospitals	61
37. Commercial and communal services	61
38. Schedule (time-table) of the vessels of Bulgarian Riverine Navigation	64
39. Schedule of buses leaving Rouse	65
40. Schedule of air flights	66
41. Petrol (filling) stations	67
42. Service stations	67
43. Camping sites	67

Author: Ivan Kalov
Editors: S. Kirekova
H. Yonkov
Artist: E. Karganova
Art Editor: N. Baldzhieva

Technical Editor: D. Mirchev
Proof-Reader: M. Ignatova



REKLAMA Economic Direction — Editors
Sofia, 1978

